GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:557
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
PRODUCTION OF MUSTARD
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Suraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of mustard is estimated to be less by ten per cent during 2007-08 as compared to the production in the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details regarding the market prices and the consumption of the said oilseed during the last three months and at present in the country; and

(d) the estimated quantity of mustard likely to be procured by the Government and Non- Government agencies during the current Rabi season?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 557 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH MAY, 2008.

(a) & (b): As per the 3rd Advance Estimates released on 22nd April 2008, production of rapeseed and mustard in the country is estimated at 64.31 lakh tonnes during 2007-08 which is 13.5% less than the production of 74.38 lakh tonnes during 2006-07. The production of rapeseed and mustard declined due to less area coverage under the crop during 2007-08 compared to 2006-07, and deficient rainfall at the time of sowing in major producing States. The production of rapeseed and mustard also declined because of cold-wave/frost conditions in the month of January 2008 in Rajasthan and Haryana.

(c): Table below gives the market price of mustard seed in major producing States in the last three months:

Month	Market Price (Rs. Per Qunital)	
	Minimum	Maximum
February 2008	1950	2900
March 2008	2200	2900
April 2008	1850	2640

The market prices of mustard seed in major producing States are currently ruling between Rs.1850 per quintal and Rs.2640 per quintal.

Almost the entire rapeseed and mustard production is consumed in the country in the form of mustard oil. The consumption of mustard oil is more during the winter season.

(d): Government has not made any procurement during Rabi 2008 under the Price Support Scheme as the market prices of mustard seed have been ruling much above the Minimum Support Price of Rs.1800 per quintal. The traders/millers cover their requirement of mustard seed from the mandies in the open option during the peak arrival period from March-May. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has planned to procure about 1 lakh tonnes of mustard seed subject to its economic viability. NAFED has procured about 20,000 tonnes of mustard seed on the prevailing market rates in major producing States.